

Mayor's Monthly Message: October 2021

This month, I will present proclamations for Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Fire Prevention Month and a declaration of October 17-23 as Arizona Cities and Towns Week, highlighting the following:

- On October 4, 2020¹ in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Governor Ducey, lit the State Capitol purple and launched the 7th annual Lighting Arizona Purple campaign. The campaign was developed to raise statewide awareness and provide important information to domestic violence victims. With domestic violence on the rise, it is important to face the difficult issue, raise awareness and publicize the services available to those who are experiencing domestic violence. During the month of October, victim-advocate groups, centers, service workers, and many other organizations come together to connect those who work to end violence, to celebrate those who have survived and mourn those who have died because of domestic violence.
- Breast cancer affects both men and women and annual checkups are key in early detection. October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month which is an annual campaign to raise awareness about the impact of breast cancer. It is important to share the message about the impacts of breast cancer, to encourage everyone to get the annual checkups, and to support those fighting breast cancer, and pay tribute to those who have lost their lives to this disease. This is the second year the Police Department has worn pink patches in support of Breast Cancer Awareness. This year the department has added a purple ribbon to the patch in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness. In acknowledgement for Council's support to both awareness campaigns, the Police Department would like to present each of you with a patch.
- In a fire, mere seconds can mean the difference between a safe escape and a tragedy. Fire safety isn't just for school children. Teenagers, adults, and the elderly are also at risk in fires, making it important for every member of the community to take some time every October during Fire Prevention Month to ensure they understand how to stay safe in case of a fire. The purpose of the Proclamation is to promote fire safety and community risk reduction in the Town of Florence.
- The Town of Florence has joined municipalities across the State of Arizona in taking part in the League of Arizona Cities and Towns 20th Annual Cities and Towns Week from October 17 – 23, 2021. This week is set aside each year to provide citizens with important information about the services and programs provided by their city/town, and to introduce the elected officials and employees that deliver them. The community is encouraged to learn more about the services and programs that Florence offers to improve the quality of life in our community.

This month, we will recognize Alessandra Allen for receiving the October 2021 Outstanding Employee Award. This award is given based on employee nominations that are submitted to the EIC, which then hears each nomination, and based on the criteria within the Program Policy, chooses the monthly winner of the award. Each employee who is recognized will receive a \$75.00 gift certificate from a local business of the winner's choosing, and a certificate which the winner receives publicly at a Town Council meeting to celebrate their contribution(s) to the Town. This award can only be received one time annually by an employee. Ally Allen has the honor of being the first employee to receive this

award. The following is what a co-worker had to say about Ally's contribution to the work environment. Here is her nomination that was received:

"Dear EIC Committee Members, Thank you for the opportunity to point out an outstanding employee. I would like to recommend Ally Allen for this recognition. Ally is a team player! She is always available and willing to help no matter the task. Ally is knowledgeable in all aspects of our software system in Finance and is heavily relied upon. Her customer service skills, both internal and external, are excellent. Ally always follows up on issues and sees all processes through to a full resolution. Despite her position, she is never "above" doing the simplest task, to the most complicated and time-consuming. Ally does not have to be asked to help with a problem – she is always tuned into her department processes and needs. Ally can always be relied upon to learn a process and teach others. She is very good at understanding software systems and identifying possible issues. She is patient when training others and always follows up to ensure we understand and are comfortable. I hope you will consider Ally Allen as our first to receive this recognition. She has worked very hard for many years for the Town and has always been loyal. I am proud to work with her and appreciate her always, CAN-DO ATTITUDE!" Please join us in congratulating Alessandra Allen for her outstanding work ethic and performance which helps her, and her co-workers excel.

The update to the 2020 General Plan has been progressing. COVID did cause a few hiccups; however, the Town's Consultant, Michael Baker International, has the project on schedule. The Community Meeting, held on July 22, and the on-line questionnaire, provided public input that has been incorporated into the draft Land Use Plan and text. We will have a meeting on October 25, 2021, which is intended to bring the Town Council and the Planning and Zoning Commission up to date regarding the draft document and to encourage input from both bodies. Prior to the meeting, there will have been an additional opportunity for community input. A display of project boards and land use scenarios will be available for discussion in the lobby of Town Hall beginning at 4:00. It is anticipated that a 60-day review document will be released prior to the end of this calendar year. At the end of the review period, a final draft will be prepared, and the required public hearings will Subject: General Plan Update Work Session be scheduled for the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Town Council. Additional work session(s) may be scheduled, if necessary. Final Town Council adoption must take place before the document can be scheduled into the election cycle for a vote by the Town's citizenry. The current General Plan contains 20 different land use designations and appears more like a zoning map. The Development Code contains 23 different zoning classifications and several of those do not have any parcels zoned. As you participate in tonight's discussion, please remember that we are discussing the General Plan, not the Development Code or zoning. Our goal is to keep the General Plan general to guide future development decisions within the Town. In this manner, individual zoning and development requests can be considered based on individual merit and compatibility with the land use fabric of the community and not measured against a hard line on the General Plan Land Use Map.

In addition to this monthly message, you can find all town council meeting agendas and minutes at: <http://www.florenceaz.gov/town-council/> and our regularly scheduled meetings are the first and third Mondays, at 6 pm, at Town Hall in Florence, AZ. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out at Mayor@florenceaz.gov.

Sincerely,

Tara Walter

Mayor of Florence, AZ